





# Supervisor offers 'State of the Township' message

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

Last year was filled with challenges and opportunities, but also continued transition toward a populated, diverse and urban community for Van Buren Township according to Supervisor Cindy King.

"We are witnessing land use trends which reflect the achievement of the American Dream by moving out and away from large urban centers to small communities such as Van Buren," she said during her State of the Township address last week. "In the last 30 years we've increased in population roughly 54 percent. We're a growing community."

King addressed the triumphs and hardships of the past year during her annual report. She said some of the major accomplishments of the year were the cre-

ation of the police traffic unit, the groundbreaking of a fire station and the implementation of an information technology plan.

"The new traffic unit was a result of the residents expressing concern about road safety," said King. "It's the best option for improving safety along our busy, crowded thoroughfares, which is needed and wanted."

"The fire station is being built to enhance fire safety services without an increase in taxes to do so," she added. "The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is financing the cost of it with a 22 year bond. Also, another first was the technology plan to determine the areas where cost savings and efficiencies can be achieved."

Other major projects to come out of 2005 include the refinancing of the bond on township hall, a new telephone system, the creation of the youth authority and

**"**  
*In the last 30 years we've increased in population roughly 54 percent. We're a growing community.*  
**Supervisor Cindy King**

continued work on the capital improvement plan. Also, the first Habitat for Humanity house in the township, hosting the first-ever Western Wayne County Senior Olympics and the start of several park projects with the funds from the \$2 million grant from Wayne County.

"The end result of those grant funded projects we'll take into 2007 to finish," said King. "Ones that were completed were the senior activity garden in Quirk

Park and improvements at Van Buren and French Landing parks."

Finances were a concern and will continue into this year and beyond, King said.

"I'd like to think the financial situation in the State of Michigan is short lived, but you just don't know," she said. "We're experiencing a greater reliance on the landfill fund to continue routine and municipal services."

In 2005, about 30 percent of the general fund revenue came from the landfill fund, but it's not a sustainable long-term resource, King said.

For now, the township board of trustees is not seeking additional voter-supported millage to fund any level of municipal service, but it is something they may revisit if economic conditions warrant.

Development continues to be the number one issue facing the

township, King said.

"It places demand on providing services," she said. "We've also seen several residential projects start and new businesses. Last year we issued many permits, which is down from previous years, but we still did a lot of work in 2005."

This year and beyond, residents will see new and old projects move forward. They will include the building of the \$16 million equalization basin and fire station one, the completion of the 42-acre land purchase for the township, increased police presence and a lower number of housing permits.

Work will also continue on the south side master plan, the tri-community district library plans and the oversight of finances, according to King.

"Revenue is not likely to grow. Hopefully we can meet our budget projection," she said.

## Bond reimbursement OK'd for wet weather basin project

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved a bond reimbursement and intent to issue sanitary sewer system improvement bonds last week for the \$16 million wet weather equalization basin project.

According to Patti Duha, director of water and sewer for

the township, the resolution will allow the township to recapture funds that may have already been spent on the wet weather equalization basin and the relief sewer project.

"It will allow the township to reimburse itself out of bond proceeds for any expenditure made to the project from 60 days prior to the resolution and thereafter," she said. "It also does not commit

the board in any sense to the issuance of the bonds."

The wet weather basin will be located on 5 acres of land at the north end of Lower Huron Metropark, just west of Hannan Road and south of Wabash Road. It is a planned underground storage tank, which is an odorless wet weather system where everything happens underground.

When complete, the project

will increase current sewer capabilities and prevent flooding, which is the best alternative to assure that the township can meet sanitary sewer needs while maximizing the use of the current contract capabilities, according to Duha.

Duha said that although the notice of intent expresses the intention of the board of trustees to finance the wet weather equal-

ization basin and relief sewer improvements through the issuance of bonds, the township is not committed to do so if after the 45-day period, officials decide to do otherwise.

Also, there will be no water and sewer rate increase for residents. The project is being funded through a state revolving fund loan and the water and sewer millage, according to Duha.

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# Candidate touts professional activities, higher education

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Eugene Robinson is the youngest candidate in the field of four competing for two open seats on the Romulus School Board, but he hopes his high-powered job and recent experience catapults him past his competitors May 2.

"I have experience managing budgets and working in the professional world most of the students in the district now will have to compete in," he said. "I think I'm the right person for this job."

Robinson, 28, is a senior supply-chain engineer with Farmington Hills-based Alcoa Corp. That firm makes small automotive components. At Alcoa, Robinson manages a budget of \$27 million per year.

Prior to joining Alcoa, he

worked for Visteon.

"The world has changed so much, and it's important – especially in urban schools – that kids get what they need early," he said. "It used to be that a high school education would get a pretty good job; but that's no longer the case. Those jobs are steadily declining. Not only do we need to make the curriculum at the high school more college preparatory, we also need to make sure kids have access to college. But the emphasis on college and other training needs to begin early."

That means implementing more mentoring programs and working to meet new state-imposed standards, said Robinson.

"These new standards really raise the bar on math and science," he said. "One of the things

I would do as a member of the board is work on creating recruitment practices that attract the best math and science teachers. That's one way that we can get students acclimated to the kids of jobs they will need to make a good living."

Another aspect of Robinson's candidacy is tax reduction. "The amount of taxes levied by the schools is burdensome for some residents, and there needs to be a way to reduce those," he said. "There are ways that the district's objectives can be met while reducing the taxes, and they need to be further explored."

Managing the school budget also remains a concern for Robinson, who said the continuing difficulty the state is going through means significant funding increases are unlikely, which means the district must get cre-

ative to keep cherished educational and extra-curricular programs going.

But Robinson said the main reason he is seeking a term on the school board is that he would like to effect change in urban schools.

"I grew up in a situation where mentorship was important," he said. "I thought this would a good way to continue that."

This is the first time Robinson has sought public office. A relative newcomer to Romulus, he grew up in Detroit and went through that city school system. He then went onto Michigan State, where he earned his bachelor's of business administration degree.

Robinson returned to school while working for Visteon, and earned a master's in business



Eugene Robinson

administration from Wayne State University.

Robinson and his wife, Shureta, have been married for three years. The couple moved to Romulus three years ago. They have no children.

## Romulus man charged in shootout

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Police said they have apprehended two men who retaliated against a shooting spree in Inkster that damaged four homes within a seven-hour period early Sunday morning.

Dontez Hudson, 21 and of Romulus, and Todd Selma, 21, of Inkster, allegedly shot at a home on the 4000 block of Isabelle Street in Inkster after an unknown suspect began firing into homes a 3 a.m., police said. Both are facing a laundry list of charges, including attempted murder.

The shooting that spurred the incident began at 3:03 a.m. when a caller reported shots fired on Lexington Avenue. Operators received another call at 3:40 a.m. to report that 13 shots were fired into a home on the 3300 block of Isabelle.

At 4:30 a.m., 13 more shots were fired at a home on the 27000 block of Notre Dame, and another 14 shots were fired at a home on the 44000 block of Hopkins at 4:50.

Then, at 10 a.m., several rounds were fired from a blue Volvo passenger car at a home on the 4400 block of Isabelle. Hudson and Selma are believed to be responsible for those shots, said Det. Tony Delgreco.

"We believe these incidents are related, but it's still under investigation at this time," he said.

Amazingly, no one was hurt during the exchange of gunfire. However, officers familiar with the case said that a bullet fired into one of the homes penetrated a sofa that a child normally sleeps on. The child was spending the night at a friend's home.

All of the shots fired into the first four homes were from a .762 AK-47 assault rifle.

Both Hudson and Selma were apprehended driving eastbound on Michigan Avenue in Dearborn in the blue Volvo after witnesses were able to give police a description of the vehicle. Inkster police put out an all-points bulletin to law enforcement agencies, and Dearborn Police made the arrest Sunday afternoon.

The motive for the initial shootings remain unclear, but police said they have suspects in those incidents, too.

Chief Gregory Gaskin and Deputy Chief Gregory Hill did not return calls seeking comment about the shootings Tuesday.

Selma is currently on probation for fleeing and eluding police during a 2002 incident. His probation was to end in 2007, but will likely be revoked. Hudson has also had previous brushes with the law, police said.

Both suspects appeared in front of Judge Sylvia A. James of the 22nd District Court in Inkster, and are each charged with one count of attempted murder, felonious assault and felony firearms. James ordered Selma held in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

Hudson was additionally charged with a count of bribery for allegedly offering a police officer \$5,000 to let him escape from the Inkster jail. He is being held in lieu of \$150,000 bond.

Hudson and Selma are being charged under the Michigan three strikes law, and if convicted, could face life behind bars.

## Bird house - Naming rights bring in much needed cash

FROM PAGE 1

Detroit – were named after the company provided funding or backing for the construction.

Small municipalities – and even commissions and board that need to generate money – have caught on. Companies, groups or individuals would pay a fee to have their name on a

plaque next to the room or area named after them. The Historical Society is a registered non-profit and can seek donations for naming purposes.

In Romulus, there is also talk of selling the name of the new recreation center currently under construction at the corner of Wayne and Northline roads. No formal proposal is before the

city council this time. But some elected officials have said selling the rights may help provide dollars for parks programs and defray the costs of running a dedicated recreation facility.

The recreation facility is expected to open for business later this spring. It is not clear when restoration on the Bird house will begin.

some thorny issues going forward –No Child Left Behind compliance, maintaining test scores and balancing the books. District figures indicate that any fund balance the schools have will likely be spent in the 2006-07 fiscal year, and the school board – along with the district administration – will be charged with finding new ways to contain expenses while raising revenue. State per-pupil funding,

which increased by about \$200 this year, was not enough to compensate for expected increases in retirement benefits and health care costs. The schools general fund budget is about \$16 million, according to district officials.

Superintendent Joel Carr will retire on Aug. 30, and the board is meeting with two candidates to fill his spot this week, according to district officials. Despite the fact that chal-

lengers are seldom elected to the board, at least one of them is confident about her candidacy.

"I feel pretty good about my chances," said Funderburg. "I don't think anyone ever really goes into a race like this thinking they're going to lose. But if I don't win, I'll still be doing my thing, volunteering in the schools. It's really about helping out with the schools. I'm not going anywhere." School board members are

elected on a revolving basis. Two board members are up for re-election every year, except for the fourth year, when the seventh seat is open. In Romulus, there is always intense interest in the seat – it's been about 10 years since someone has run unopposed.

It is too late to register to vote in this election. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2.

### News in brief

#### Last chance to buy used books

Saturday will be the last day used books will be on sale at the Romulus Public Library.

Commonly known as "Bag Day," as many books as can fit into a plastic bag will be on sale for \$2.25 per bag. The bags can be filled with hard or soft-cover books, as well as CDs, DVDs and videotapes.

The used book sale is organized by the Friends of the Romulus Public Library, which uses the funds to purchase equipment for the library. The sale began on April 24, but there is still a good selection by the time bag day comes around.

The book sale area will be open from noon-5 p.m. on Saturday.

The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 942-7589.

#### Scholarship concert scheduled

The Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church has scheduled a first-ever "Voices of Praise" concert to benefit the church college scholarship fund.

The concert will feature several area church choirs who will performance variety of songs. The featured group will be the Deliverance Choir of the Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church.

Though the concert is free to the public, offerings made during the show will help needy area students make college become a reality.

The concert will begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday. The church is located at 35625 Vinewood St., off Wayne Road between Ecorse and Van Born.

For more information, contact the church at (734) 728-1390.

#### Card game to benefit charities

Members of the Romulus Police Department are asking card enthusiasts and other interested parties to come out the Progressive Hall May 20 for a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament.

The proceeds of the event will benefit local charities, but the best card player can earn some cash, too. The top prize in the tournament is \$500.

The doors open at 4 p.m., and dinner begins at 4:30 p.m. The card game starts at 6 p.m. The cost of the event is \$60 per person.

The Romulus Progressive Hall is located at 11580 Ozga Road.

To sign up for the event, or to ask questions, call Ofc. Steve Littleton or Ofc. Mike St. Andre at (734) 941-8400 before 2:30 p.m. Space is limited.

## Election

FROM PAGE 1

Eugene Robinson. Both Meinkiewicz and Roscoe are seeking a second term on the board, and both Funderburg and Robinson are first-time candidates.

Whoever is elected to the seven-member board will face



# OPINION

## New school board members should be...

If recent history and economic forecasts mean anything, the next four years will be challenging ones for local school officials.

When voters go to the polls on May 2 for the school board election, we think they should opt for change in the Inkster Public School District and the status quo in Romulus.

In Romulus, **Celeste Roscoe** and **Ken Meinkiewicz** are seeking reelection and we see no reason they should not be returned to the board. Both are seeking a second term and both have provided sound reasoning during their first four years on the board.

Roscoe, who works for a small manufacturer in Romulus, has shown that her accounting job gives her the perspective with facts and figures to make solid decisions for the school district. With a new superintendent, the board will need experience at all levels to ensure a smooth transition, but finances will remain a top issue within the district.

Likewise, Meinkiewicz has fulfilled a strong role on the board. The retired teacher brings the perspective of other school districts—he was a teacher and counselor in the Wayne-Westland district—that has proved valuable and will again. He worked in the old Cherry Hill School District, and knows well the problems school districts face today.

In Inkster, we like challenger **Sandra Bullard-Maye** over incumbent John Rucker.

Bullard-Maye, a General Motors retiree, has three live-in grandchildren in the Inkster school district. We like her philosophy of getting more parents involved in the schools, as evidenced by her participation in the Parent Advisory Committee. She is active in the community, too.

The Inkster Public Schools have made a dramatic turnaround recently, boasting improved MEAP scores and better financial management. If Bullard-Maye is elected, it will complete a turnover of the board and we think that is a good thing, too. It's time to look ahead, not at the past.

Regardless of where school officials serve, they'll face a difficult four years. In Romulus, we think the incumbents **Celeste Roscoe** and **Ken Meinkiewicz** will best serve the district. In Inkster, **Sandra Bullard-Maye** is the best choice.

Remember to vote on May 2.

## LETTERS

### Eminent domain criticized

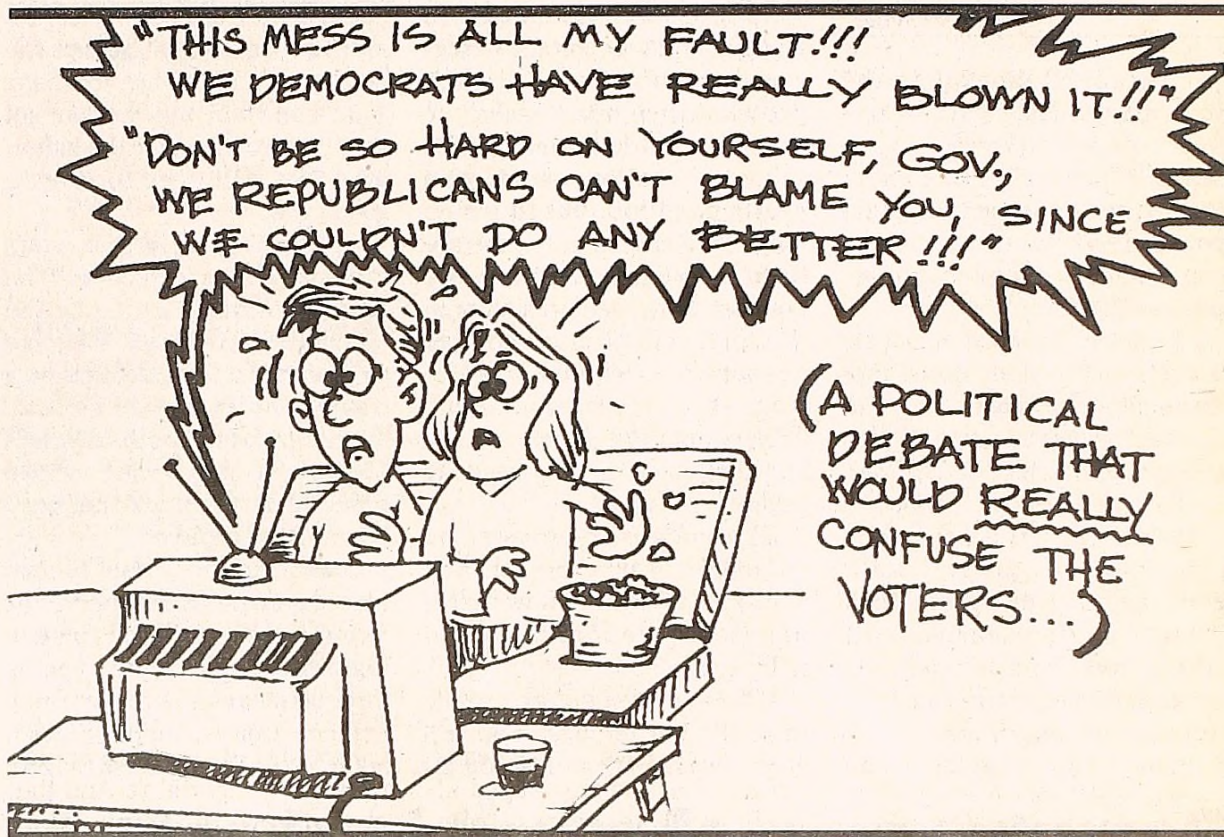
To the editor:

I disagree with your opinion on eminent domain.

As far as blight, you're right—there is no definite definition of blight and unfortunately some political authorities have a habit of abusing this. This has been abused in several states, where well-kept neighborhoods have been taken over by eminent domain and people have lost more than their homes. They have lost their future in retirement. They have lost a part of their history and family heritage. The past is important to many.

Didn't they just make the southeast subdivision in Westland a historical site? Wasn't that because of its history? Do all these neighborhoods have to get historical markers to stop the take over of their homes?

See Letters, page 5



## Some are more equal

Members of the Wayne City Council are supposed to get their first long look at the upcoming budget next week and, by all accounts, it isn't going to be pretty.

The council has already put off receiving the document—at the request of city administration—so they can prepare themselves for the difficult decisions that are ahead of them.

At the same time, people in city hall or in the various city departments are probably popping antacid tablets, wondering if the proverbial shoe will drop on them.

It's a tough situation.

I'm probably going to get myself in trouble, here, but I've got a problem with it, too.

First of all, I'm willing to go on record to say I'm not fond of labor unions. They had their place in history, protecting workers' rights, but I think that period is in the past. It's not that I don't think workers need to be protected—I just don't think unions are the best way of doing it.

That being said, I don't think the unions—or any City of Wayne employee, for that matter—are being treated fairly in this.

My issue, believe it or not, is with the concept that everybody has to make sacrifices. City Manager John Zech said as much when he talked about how the budget forecast was a little more bleak than expected, that the city has fought with reduced state shared revenue and other drops in municipal income to the point where there's nothing left to cut but staff and services.

He and other city department heads have volunteered to take a pay freeze and are asking their unions to re-open their contracts for similar con-

cessions. It's a bullying tactic couched in warm and fuzzy terms like 'teamwork' and 'cooperation.'

It's a lot easier for workers at the top echelon of the pay scale to accept a pay freeze than it is for people at the bottom. The increase in the cost of living doesn't impact those who are well above the poverty level than the ones who are in jeopardy of falling below it, or even the ones who wonder what happened to their status as comfortable members

of the middle class. I know, because I'm in that latter group, although I wouldn't describe myself as being comfortably so. I watch the bills come in, higher than ever. Even with the proposed 3 percent increase that some of these union people were scheduled to receive this year, they'll

still be making, comparatively, less than in the past.

But they're expected—or at least asked—to give that up, because their superiors so nobly decided to do so. If they don't, they'll become the bad guys, the selfish ones. Unions, unpopular with anyone not in one, will take another hit and the employees—some of whom put themselves voluntarily in harm's way every day—will become less happy.

Will it solve anything? I doubt it. If the budget is as bad as some people have said it is, cutting back on a few part-timers and making people give up raises only about a year after they agreed to them in the first place will probably only be a drop in the bucket. There has to be a better solution than taking the state of the economy out on the employees.

*If the budget is as bad as some people have said it is, cutting back on a few part-timers and making people give up raises only about a year after they agreed to them in the first place will probably only be a drop in the bucket.*

## A little sensitivity training, please

It's rare that anyone on the Inkster City Council speaks about personal experience, but it happened last Monday.

Two council members—Ernest Hendricks and Mike Canty—told an audience of about 20 how affirmative action helped their careers. Hendricks is the owner of a custom drapery firm, and Canty is retired from the banking industry.

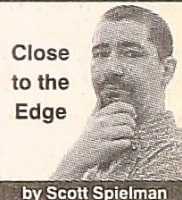
The issue came up after a sorority asked the council members to approve a resolution in opposition the Michigan Civil Rights Institute, a proposal that would ban any affirmative action programs in college admissions and government hiring. The proposal is backed by Ward Connerly, a Sacramento businessman and president of the American Civil Rights Coalition.

With a few changes to the resolution text provided by the sorority, the city approved the resolution.

The council opposed the initiative, which is certainly their right.

I only have one issue with all of this, and that's the fact that the forces lining up against this proposal say the name of the proposal is misleading. Too often in the debate about affirmative action, the implication is that minorities are the only ones guaranteed Civil Rights in the United States, and that's not true. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson,

See Civil Rights, page 5



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

Maybe it hasn't been abused in Michigan (I'm not so sure of this) but it could be very easily once the economy picks up again. Several cities have lost historical buildings due to so-called progress. In one a castle and a stone house were both destroyed due to progress and in another a beautiful home has to be moved or destroyed because it supposedly doesn't fit in to the vision for the area it is in.

Of course everyone is entitled to their opinion and this is mine.

Judy McKinney,  
Westland

Parent criticizes school board

To the editor:

The School Board for Van Buren Schools needs to be recalled.

This district and school board have failed to make basic short or long-term goals for the district. They have ignored the need for new schools for the growing populations in northern Van Buren Township and southwestern Canton. All this district wants is \$111 million for the new high school that will be placed further south than most of the population of the district.

I have been told to "play ball" and maybe they would look at the

needs of northern Van Buren and southwest. Canton. I do not want to "play ball" with our children's educational needs.

This district has ignored our needs for too long. They are more than happy to take our tax dollars but give us nothing in return except for a 40-minute bus ride for our kids.

Jim Edwards,  
Canton Township

Resident urges clean up

To the editor;

Hey, Romulus, pick up.

Spring is sprung...the grass is getting greener...now at least make your front yard cleaner.

Have you looked in your front yard today? Have you looked in your water ditch near your main street. Some have garbage cans floating. Has the city looked at the fence line across from Romulus Middle School on Wick? Trash everywhere. There are even some political signs left over from last year's races on people's lawns.

Come on Romulus: Pick up.

Take five minutes of your day and make our neighborhoods shine.

Jeff Kotlarek,  
Romulus

Civil Rights

FROM PAGE 4

guarantees those rights to all of us.

In other words, Civil Rights is a two way street. In Inkster, there have been allegations that suggest that may not be true.

A recent example: Canty himself made a ham-handed remark about the new police department uniforms looking like, "an Israeli SWAT team." He said this to a group of onlookers at the city council study session to Police Chief Gregory Gaskin and to the Arab American officer he brought with him to model the uniform. A collection of Arab American officers thought Canty's remarks were inappropriate.

In any other city, an elected official who let this sort of remark slip would have apologized, but Canty didn't. And the council gave the impression that they, too, condone the remarks by not reprimanding Canty immediately after the comment.

The city is also facing a Civil Rights complaint filed by City Engineer Muzzaffar Lakhani, who is from Pakistan. His suit alleges he was subjected to name-calling when he headed up the Department of Public Service. The city is also facing a

discrimination suit filed by Lt. Tom Diaz, who was denied a promotion twice.

Diaz' attorney, in court filings, claimed the city would only consider an African American for the positions of police chief and deputy chief.

Hendricks said he told his first client that he only wanted a chance to his show his work, and that if hired, he would do his best. Then he did just that, and the client worked with the councilman thereafter.

Today in Inkster, members of other minority groups – and the majority – are asking for the same consideration, but one can't help but wonder if they are being failed.

**The bunny hop:** I received a call from a parks employee last week that started out conventionally, but sent us out on a wild rabbit chase. The caller – who was charged with donning the bunny suit for the city Easter egg hunt – said he was not the person in the photo because he could see that person in the furry suit was white.

He also said we, as the people who put together the newspaper, just dropped in photos from some other city because we didn't want to bother with Inkster. He said this is a regular occurrence, and called the photos "false advertising"

Obviously, I strenuously

objected to that characterization, but I went and looked up all bunny pictures in all of the cities we cover to see if we made an error, and we didn't. The pictures are awfully light – which is probably because of print quality.

We have always put photos in the paper from Inkster – to suggest otherwise is pure nonsense. Parks Director Ron Wolkowicz also confirmed that he saw our photographer at the event. However, we did misname one of the children on the front page – and for that, we are sorry.

**Seeing stars:** I'm probably one of only a handful of people who has never been to a Starbucks Coffee Shop, but after watching a 60 Minutes profile of CEO Howard Schultz, I'm going to give them a try. Schultz, who was raised in a horrendous New York housing project, has committed to providing health insurance to workers who work as little as 20 hours a week. He said that, growing up poor, he never wanted anyone else – no matter who they were or where they come from – to have the sorts of problems he suffered as a young person. He's asked himself a question we need to find an answer for: What can all of us do to help the weakest members of our society – no matter who they are?

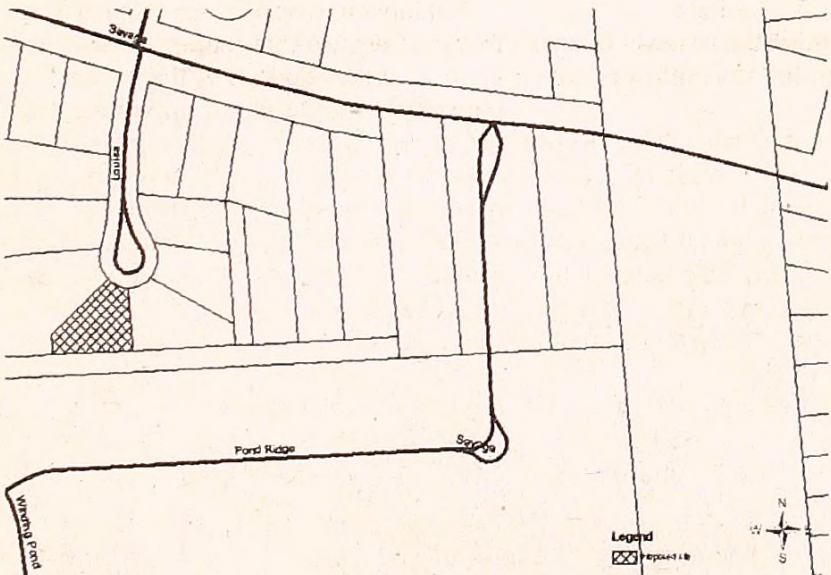
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111 on Wednesday, May 10, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

Parcel with the tax ID number V125-83-102-02-0007-000, or more commonly known as 14386 Louisa Drive.

A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting a modification to construct a 24' X 32' detached garage behind the house on the parcel. A 16' X 24' detached workshop building also exists on the lot. Section 4.14 B 4- d: Detached Garages on Smaller Lots states that a detached garage can not exceed 528 square feet on lots smaller than 25,500 square feet. The applicant is requesting a modification to allow an additional 624 square feet of detached garage area. Planning Commission approval is required in accordance with Section 4.14 C-7 of the Township Zoning Ordinance. Specifically, the Planning Commission may modify requirements of Section 4.14 subject to specific conditions

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing. In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: April 21, 2006  
Publish: April 27, 2006

EXHIBIT A  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN,  
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF INTENTION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
TO ISSUE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT BONDS AND  
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REFERENDUM THEREON

TO ALL ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN,  
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan (the "Township") has, by resolution of its Board of Trustees, expressed its intent to issue sanitary sewer system improvement bonds (the "Bonds") under the Revised Municipal Finance Act, Act No. 34, Michigan Public Acts of 2001, as amended ("Act 34"), for the purposes of financing the cost of (i) improvements and repairs to the Township's sanitary sewer system, and (ii) issuing the Bonds. The maximum principal amount of Bonds to be issued is \$16,150,000, which shall be issued not later than December 31, 2006. The Bonds shall bear interest at a rate or rates to be determined, but in no event above 7% per annum per maturity.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the full faith and credit of the Township will be pledged for the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Bonds. Pursuant to such pledge of its full faith and credit, the Township will be obligated, to the extent other moneys are not made available, to levy such ad valorem taxes upon all taxable property in the Township as shall be necessary to make such payments of principal, premium, if any, and interest, which taxes, however, will be subject to applicable charter, statutory and constitutional limitations on the taxing power of the Township.

RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REFERENDUM

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this notice is given to and for the benefit of the electors of the Township in order to inform them of the intention of the Township to issue the Bonds and also to inform registered electors of the Township of their right to petition for a referendum on the question of issuing the Bonds. The Township intends to issue the Bonds without a vote of the electors of the Township thereon. If, within 45 days after publication of this notice, a petition for referendum requesting an election on the issuance of the Bonds by the Township, signed by not less than 10% or 15,000 of the registered electors of the Township, whichever is less, has been filed with the Clerk of the Township on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Township, the Bonds shall not be issued unless and until approved by a majority of the electors of the Township voting thereon at a general or special election.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Trustees pursuant to Act 34. Further information may be obtained at the Water & Sewer Department of the Charter Township of Van Buren, Van Buren Township, Michigan.

Joannie D. Payne  
Township Clerk  
Charter Township of Van Buren, Michigan

Publish: April 27, 2006



OBITUARIES

**MCMULLAN, Owen**  
Owen D. McMullan, 77, of Belleville, died March 4.  
Among his survivors are his nephew, Richard (Andrea) Watson; sisters, Phyllis Hancotte and Harriett Wofford; a brother, Wynn McMullan, and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews.  
Funeral services were at Uht Funeral Home in Westland with Pastor Bob McDonald officiating.

Interment was at Soop Cemetery in Van Buren Township.

**KREYGER, Edmund**  
Edmund W. Kreyger, 82, of Romulus, died April 11.  
Among his survivors are his wife, Myra (Polenz) Kreyger; sons, Craig (Kathy) Kreyger of South Dakota and Brant Kreyger of Romulus; his daughter, Gayle Mach of Romulus; grandsons, Brandt

Kreyger and Benjamin Mach, and a sister, Margaret Gala  
Mr. Kreyger retired from the Wayne County Road Commission in 1975. He was a member of the Romulus VFW 9568 and the Wayne County Retirees Association. He was also a Wayne County Employees Union member.

Mr. Kreyger served in the United State Navy.  
Funeral services were at St. Aloysius Catholic Church with Father Festus Ejimadu officiating.  
Interment was at Romulus Cemetery.  
Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus.

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
NOTICE TO ELECTORS  
Absentee Voter Ballots

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN:

Notice is hereby given that ABSENTEE VOTERS BALLOTS are available for the School Board election to be held Tuesday, May 2, 2006, and may be obtained from the Office of the Romulus City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, for electors who expect to be absent from the community, are physically disabled, cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of their religion or are 60 years of age or older.

Notice is further given that **Saturday, April 29, 2006** is the deadline for the acceptance of Absentee Ballot Applications, in accordance with Section 168.759 of Michigan Compiled Laws of 1948, as amended. The City Clerk's Office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 2.40 p.m. for the acceptance thereof.

"LATE" ABSENTEE VOTERS APPLICATIONS will be accepted from any registered elector between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the day before the election, Monday, May 1, 2006 if the voter shall personally appear at the Clerk's office. Said ballot may not be taken out of the Clerk's office but must be voted immediately.

EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTERS APPLICATIONS will be issued to any registered elector prior to 4:00 p.m. on Election Day if he/she shall become physically disabled or shall be absent from the City of Romulus because of sickness or death in the family which occurred at a time that has made it impossible to apply for Absentee Ballots by the statutory deadline.

Linda R. Choate, CMC,  
Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

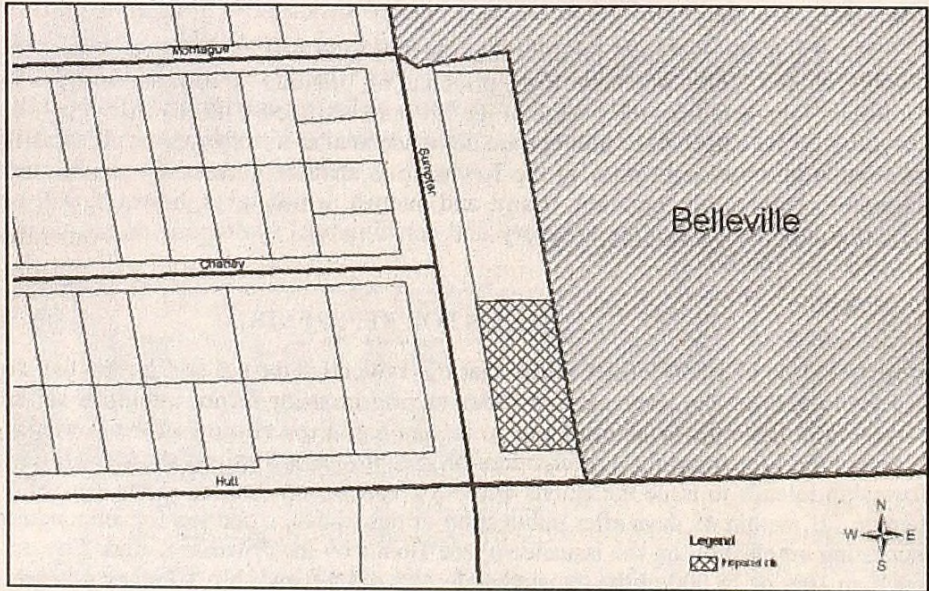
Publish: April 27, 2006

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday May 10, 2006 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

The parcel tax ID number is V125-83-107-99-0002-000. This property is located on the Northeast corner of Sumpter Road between Hull and Chaney Roads. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for publicly owned buildings per Section 11.04(a) of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., the date of the hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: April 21, 2006  
Publish: April 27, 2006

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 13, 2006

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Environmental Director Swallow, Public Safety Director Champagne, Recreation and Facilities Director Ross, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of thirteen (13).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Hart moved, Payne seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Hart moved, Jahr seconded to approve the appointment of Lianne Clair to fill the vacancy of Trustee position. Carried.

Clerk Payne sworn in Lianne Clair as Trustee.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Rochowiak moved, Jahr seconded to adjourn at 3:26 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC  
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King  
Supervisor

Publish: April 27, 2006

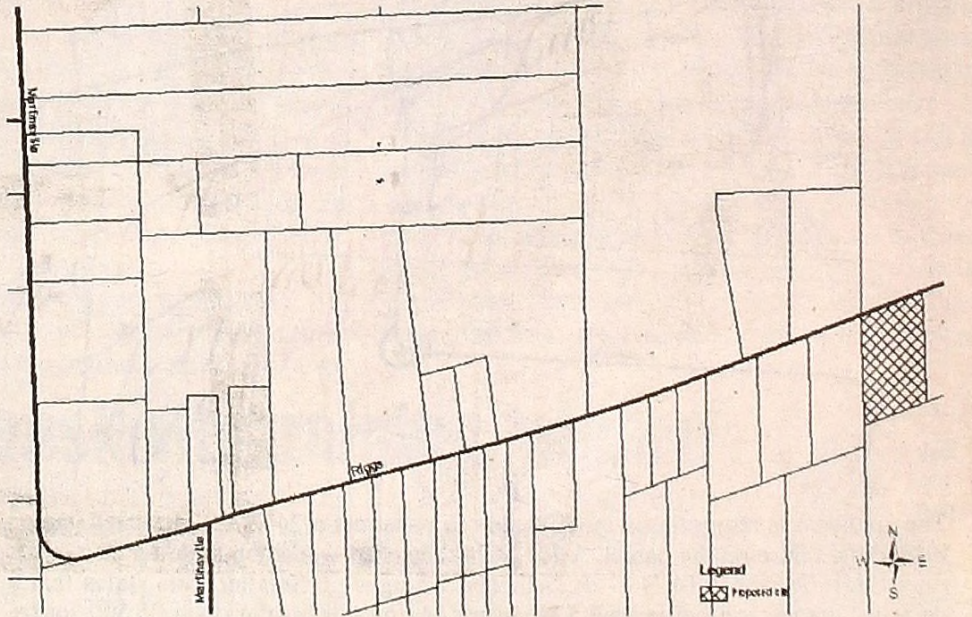
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111 on Wednesday, May 10, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

Parcel with the tax ID number V125-83-139-99-0073-702, or more commonly known as 42699 Riggs Road.

A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting Planning Commission approval to construct a pole barn with area that exceeds the maximum permitted by the Township Zoning ordinance, 06-02-92, as amended, by 990 square feet.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing. In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: April 21, 2006  
Publish: April 27, 2006



# THE SCENE

## American Dreamz

### Film succeeds as terrific, but biting, social commentary

*American Dreamz*, a no-holds-barred satire of *American Idol* and the society obsessed by the show, is a fascinating social commentary—but it isn't for the faint of heart.

Unlike spoofs such as *Scary Movie 4* that focus, more or less, on gentle humor, *American Dreamz* goes straight for the jugular with humor as cutting as it is controversial.

Martin Tweed (Hugh Grant) hosts the hottest show on television, *American Dreamz*. The program offers unknown singers from across the nation a chance at stardom. He hates his job—which combines the host responsibilities of Ryan Seacrest with the cutting commentary of Simon Cowell on *American Idol*—but he loves the power that accompanies it. As the new season starts, Tweed is searching for the perfect cast to keep the show at the top of the ratings.

Sally Kendo (Mandy Moore) will do whatever it takes to become a star and her overbearing mother (Jennifer Coolidge) is ever ready to support her. Sally may be the darling of small-town Ohio, but the 'focused'—or unabashedly self-centered—woman is ready to cut her ties and head out. Her long-time boyfriend, William Williams (Chris Klein), may dream of the altar, but she's got other ideas. Still, even she has to concede that he may have a place in her new life.

A recent transplant to Orange County, Omer (Sam Golzari) isn't your average *American Dreamz* contestant. He loves music more than anything else in his life, but his checkered past could throw a



major roadblock in his future.

Meanwhile, the President of the United States (Dennis Quaid) has hit a rough spot in his life. The media is being mean to him, he's starting to fear that his official policy briefings have been less than 100 percent accurate, and he's starting to see the strings his puppet master/chief of staff (Willem DaFoe) uses to guide—or force—him in the right direction. It's time for a change.

As the series continues, it looks less like a talent competition than a war game. Just as the infamous Boss Tweed once ruled the New York political scene with an iron fist, Martin Tweed is a force to be reckoned with as his machinations help determine who will survive. Political scientists and historians teach that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely and Tweed—who is more powerful than the President in terms of public opinion—revels in that corruption. For everyone else, reality television is a dog-eat-dog world; who knows what they'll do to survive.

*American Dreamz* is a film that audience members will either love or hate. There really isn't any middle ground. Grant makes an excellent self-centered, Machiavellian headliner while Moore does a remarkably believable job of portraying Britn...er, a scheming, two-faced singer willing to anything to succeed. This is one of the few examples of a pop star who actually adds something to a film—unlike, say, *Crossroads*. Klein's role is interesting but Golzari's is the only truly sympathetic character—a rather politically charged decision.

Dennis Quaid's thinly veiled impersonation of 'Dubya', however, steals the show. His comedic timing is amazing as he portrays a highly confused president trying to figure out why he's ordered the things he has done as president (and why

he's supposed to play sycophant to a TV personality.) Supporters of the current administration will probably take umbrage with the simplemindedness of the President's portrayal—news briefings in comic book format, anyone?

Critics of the administration, however, will probably enjoy the portrayal as the seemingly dense commander in chief tries to figure out for himself what's going on in the world, particularly in the Middle East. Even more than that is the caricature of the current president offered by everything from Quaid's stance and walk to the thoughtful look that morphs into the confused expression of a monkey asked to do algebra when Quaid's character is faced with simple tasks. Love it or hate it, though, Quaid does a great job.

The film is cutting in its criticism of pop culture, particularly the easily led followers of *Dreamz*, and it's political ramifications. Viewers can read a lot into the film but even at face value, it's fairly...interesting. Audience members might or might not like the politicized message of the film, but it's worth seeing at least once.

The film is rated PG-13 for some strong language and some sexual references. It has a run time of about 110 minutes. It was written and directed by Paul Weitz, who also directed *American Pie*, *Down to Earth*, and *About a Boy*.



## Symphony POPS concert tomorrow features songs of the Silver Screen

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, under Music Director and Conductor, Nan Washburn, will present "Sounds of the Silver Screen," the annual POPS Concert and Benefit Auction.

Patrons will enjoy a program with music from classic and popular movies such as *The*

*Sound of Music*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Batman*, *Dances with Wolves*, *Prince of Thieves* and *To Kill a Mocking Bird*.

Throughout the evening, the Plymouth Symphony League annual silent and live auctions will take place, as well.

Items to be auctioned include an 18K gold and dia-

mond Pavé Ball pierced earrings and pendant donated by Dearborn Jewelers, a diamond and topaz pendant with a white gold box chain donated by Showroom of Elegance, a pearl and diamond ring set in 14K gold donated by O & D Bush Jewelers.

The auctions also feature

prizes such as a five-person golf cart tour of the Detroit Zoo, dinner packages at several restaurants in the area, and even a chance to conduct the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets for the event are \$75 for adults and \$35 for children. Table sponsorship for groups is also available. Tickets must be

purchased in advance. For tickets, season subscriptions, or more information, please contact the Plymouth Symphony Office at (734) 451-2112, or at [info@plymouthsymphony.org](mailto:info@plymouthsymphony.org).

The show takes place at 6 p.m. tomorrow at Laurel Manor, located at 39000 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia.



# THE SCENE

# THE SENTINEL

## fails to entertain

Boy, does Kiefer Sutherland like fighting government conspiracies.

That's what audience members will inevitably find themselves thinking as they watch *The Sentinel*, which stars Sutherland and Michael Douglas as two Secret Service agents trying to stop a plot to assassinate the president of the United States.

Then comes a related thought: they will begin to wish they were at home, watching Sutherland's television series 24, the plot of which—though just as implausibly silly—at least twists. (Not to mention that the acting is better, the action happens faster and the characters stay with you longer.)

Sutherland's character here, David Breckinridge, is not a copy of Jack Bauer, the federal agent Sutherland plays on TV. Still, the clenched jaw and the sense of duty are ever present. One major difference here is that Sutherland figures out how to speak in the ranges between an exasperated whisper and a full-throated shout.

When the camera is on Douglas, though, *The Sentinel* will once again make audiences wish they were watching something else. Douglas, as veteran agent Pete Garrison, is a half-hearted clone of Harrison Ford in *The Fugitive*. He's being pursued by Breckinridge, and it's up to Garrison, whose been framed, to prove his innocence.

The stakes should be higher here: a high-ranking traitor inside the secret service is helping along the plot to kill the president. The most dedicated agent (Garrison still dreams about the day Ronald Reagan was shot) is the prime suspect. The *Sentinel* falls flat, though, and the president is a part of the problem: as with many movie presidents, he doesn't quite look the part. It's a big problem when you can't pick the most powerful man in the world out of a line-up. The only thing

we really know about this film's president—the only reason we know to care about him—is that he is president. Also, we know he has a wife, Sarah Ballentine (Kim Basinger), who doesn't love him and sneaks away to smooch Garrison whenever she can.

This thriller should have picked either deceit—the affair or the assassination—and run with it. Instead, both are given a lame attempt at fleshing out, to the detriment of the entire movie. The affair storyline is hardly developed: we only see one, quite awkward, make-out session, which leads to Garrison's being blackmailed.

Garrison is worried about the affair being found out, so he fails a polygraph meant to find the traitor. That makes him the prime suspect in Breckinridge's investigation, and the pursuit ensues.

The filmmakers would have been better off focusing more on Garrison's affair. He is, after all, sleeping with the first lady—a transgression that could, if public interest in Bill Clinton's sex life was any indication, do far greater damage to a sitting president than getting killed. (It should be noted that there is also an affair cooking between an agent and the president's wife currently on 24.)

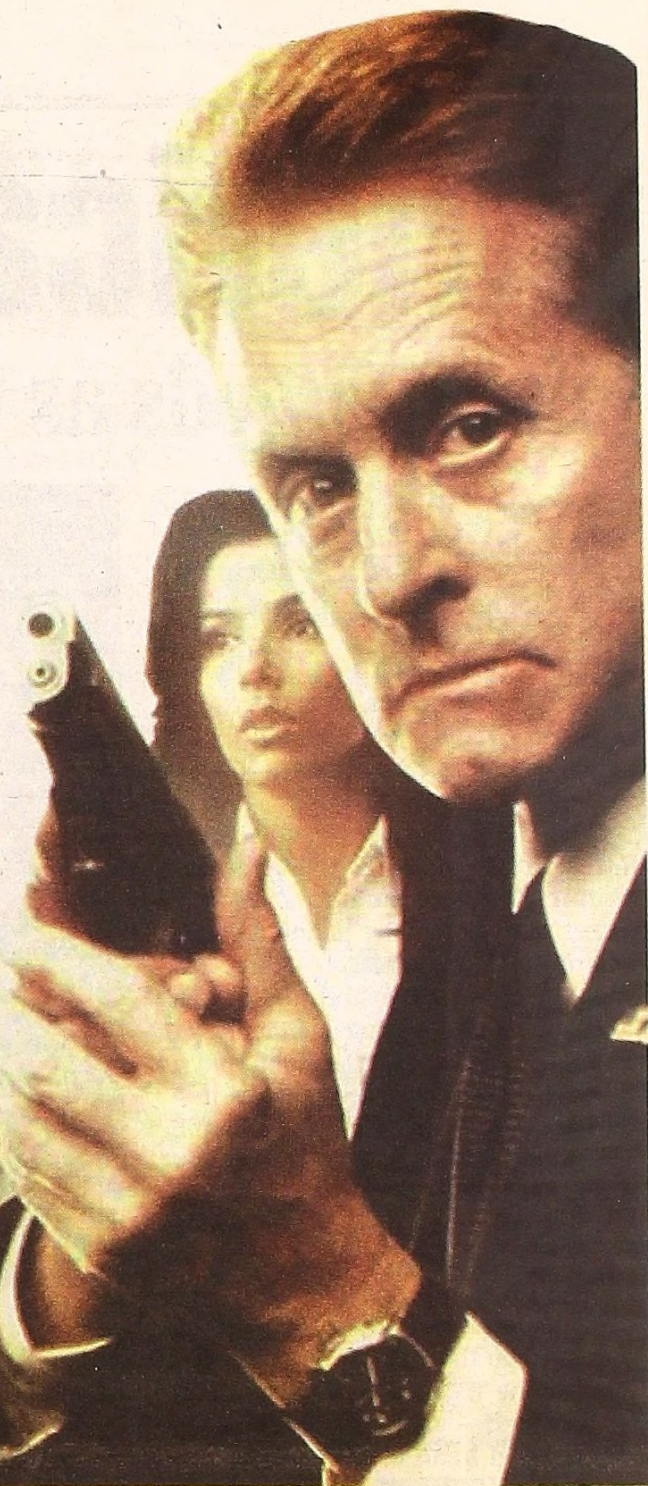
It wasn't to be, though: Basinger, for her part, doesn't appear to have a single lucid moment on screen. Maybe she just seems like a flake because she isn't given enough screen time for us to discern what she feels about the whole business. It would have been helpful for us to learn, for example, why she doesn't love the president. Instead, director Clark Johnson relies on the cliché of loveless political marriages. Obviously, Ballentine's concerned about what could happen to the president's reputation if she and her lover are outed; she doesn't want Garrison to go to jail forever or the president killed, either. That's all fertile ground for a Washington thriller, but Basinger just

walks around with a sad face.

At least Basinger had a reason to be on screen. That is all I will say about co-star Eva Longoria.

There are some moments of tension, a few great visual effects and one good emotional exchange between the two leads.

That's not enough to go see this movie, though, especially since Jack Bauer still hasn't caught this year's batch of terrorists.



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# SPORTS

## Accelerator's drive earns her scholarship

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

Salem student-athlete Brittany Lockhart has it all.

Talent. Poise. Heart. The fact that she has a loving family, supportive coaches and good friends and teammates doesn't go unnoticed.

The entire package factors into what makes her the track star that she is.

Now, to top it all off, she has a full scholarship to Eastern Michigan University where she will take part in one of the best track programs in the country under the famed coach Steve Lewis.

Lockhart, like most teenagers, dreamt of going away to college—far away. So, at first, she was a little skeptical of heading just a few miles down I-94 to be an Eagle. She soon realized that it wasn't the distance away from home that mattered, but the distance in which a school and its track program could take her.

"At first I was a little set off by Eastern because it was so close to home and I wanted to go some

place warm where it would be good to train all year," she said. "But when I took my visit, there were so many things that I liked about it. I got along with the girls and I thought that I would really be able to train with them and the coach seemed a lot like my coach (James Hall) already—I could really fit in with him."

She said she also liked the Eastern business program. She plans to study business management and hopefully start her own graphic design business after college.

"I told myself that it would be dumb not to choose this school just because it was close, if it had everything I liked," she added.

Her father, Otis Lockhart, was relieved with the offer because it is a good school and program but mostly because the recruiting process was over.

"I'm kind of glad it's over," he said. "The biggest concern that I had about her going to college was that she was going to a good program. She's going to one of the best girls' track programs. I think Coach Lewis, who coached Olympians in the past, was one of

the deciding factors."

Although Brittany Lockhart came from a talented and athletic family—her father was a standout athlete at Detroit Pershing High School while growing up on the tough East side and later in college at Mississippi State University—she didn't just fall into athletics.

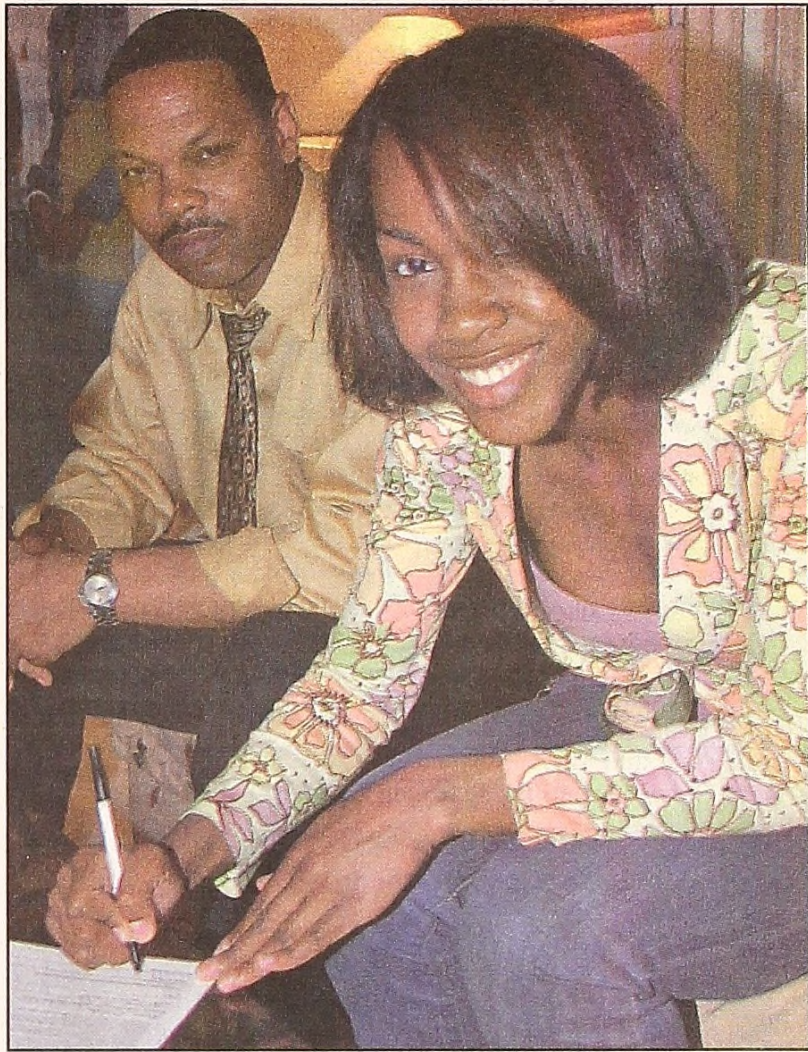
Because her father was in the Army, her family moved around a lot and she never got too involved with school sports. Then one of her friends dragged her to a track meeting in her freshman year.

"I had never played a sport ever before but I happened to like track," she said. "I just jumped into everything and it turned out to be a good thing for me."

Now the 'Rock' star trains and competes all year around, except for a small break in the fall.

Usually people cut down on the amount of events that they do to specialize in one or two events but Lockhart kept adding on events.

She runs the open 400-meter, 200-meter dash, 300-meter hur-



Brittany Lockhart signs her letter of intent to run with the Eagles at Eastern Michigan University at her home in Canton Township.

dles, all of the relays and sometimes the 100-meter hurdles while maintaining a proficiency in the long jump and high jump. She also started training in the

triple jump.

"I don't think that I have a favorite event," she said. "I think

See **Track star**, page 11

## We have take off: Detroit Ignition gets things started

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The key was inserted; turned at full force and 'ignition' was achieved when the Hantz Group in Southfield and the Major Indoor Soccer League officially introduced the launch of the Detroit Ignition.

The Ignition, which is to kick off its inaugural season in early November at its home at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township, unveiled its logo, revealed its number-one college draft pick and introduced the head coach at a press extravaganza last Wednesday at the Westin Southfield-Detroit in Southfield.

The indoor soccer team will land in the backyards of some of the biggest soccer communities in southeast Michigan, including Canton, Plymouth and Northville.

"We're excited to get this going," said Greg Bibb, President of Hantz Group subsidiary Hantz Sports and Entertainment.

After an exhaustive search, Bibb decided that long-time player and coach Mark Pulisic would be named the first head coach of the organization. He was hired months ago but introduced at the conference.

"One, he has a lot of experience as a player," Bibb said of Pulisic. "Two, he coached start-up programs and was an assistant coach in the United Soccer Leagues second division. He separated himself from the group by successfully communicating his strategy on how to translate a Major Indoor Soccer League expansion club into a winning soccer team."

Pulisic's playing career spanned eight seasons (1991-99), all of which he spent with the now-defunct Harrisburg Heat.

He reached the 100-point mark three times in his career. With 296 goals and 689 points, he retired as the franchise's all-time leading scorer and earned a spot in the team's Hall of Fame. He was also an All-Rookie selection in 1991-92 and an All-Star pick in 1997.

His coaching record is just as impressive.

Pulisic, 37, was named head coach of the inaugural men's soccer program at Lebanon Valley College (Lebanon, PA) in 1993, and assumed the same role for the school's first women's team in 1996. Both squads, built by Pulisic from the ground up, were ranked nationally during his 12-year tenure. He was named the Commonwealth Conference Men's Soccer Coach of the Year in 2000, and earned Women's Coach of the Year Honors in 2001 and 2003.

In 2003 and 2004, Pulisic served as an assistant coach for the Harrisburg City Islanders of the outdoor United Soccer Leagues' Second Division.

Since the end of last August, Pulisic has been continuing his coaching education in

England, and will return to the U.S. with the prestigious UEFA "A," USSF "A," and European "A" coaching licenses.

"I'm excited to be here in Detroit and start a team from scratch," Pulisic said. "The Hantz Group has been wonderful, they're sending a great message for indoor soccer. I'm excited to get to work with Greg (Bibb). He's putting a lot of trust in me. We're going to work together and win."

The first joint decision the two made together was selecting University of Michigan grad Ryan Alexander as the team's first pick in the college draft.

Alexander led the Wolverines in scoring in his senior campaign in 2005, posting four goals and 11 points in 17 games. The 6-1, 185-pound forward played his freshman and sophomore years at Wake Forest, where he totaled nine goals and 29 points in 38 contests.

Alexander is a native of Southfield and a product of the University of Detroit Jesuit High School, where in 2001 he was named a Parade All-American and dubbed "Mr. Soccer" for

the State of Michigan.

"He's big and athletic and plays well with his back to goal, which will translate well in indoor soccer," Bibb said. "The fact that he was a local kid was icing on the cake. But it was his athleticism and ability to play that made him worthy of the number-one pick."

"He was a good college player," Pulisic added. "He should adapt well to the indoor game if he comes in with the right attitude."

Detroit used their first numerical pick on midfielder Yohann Mauger from the University of Akron. With its second-round pick, the Ignition selected forward Chris Edwards out of Oakland University. Defender John Mariscalco, from Butler University, was Detroit's third-round pick.

Although excitement ran wild through the organization and those involved, Pulisic expects some rough waters when starting a team from scratch.

"There will definitely be bumps in the road," he said. "You just have to take your team, which won't be the best talent, but will be a group that will work hard."

"I'm excited," he added. "What I think I bring to the table is hard work and an organized team that will play hard."

The Ignition will kick off their season on an undisclosed date in early November and play against teams like the Chicago Storm, Milwaukee Wave, Philadelphia Kixx, Baltimore Blast, St. Louis Streamers, Kansas City Comet and California Cougars.

Ticket prices at Compuware will range from \$22-\$40 per game or from \$340-\$1,360 for season tickets for 15 home games and two playoff games.

For more information on the Detroit Ignition go to [www.detroitignition.com](http://www.detroitignition.com).



*There will definitely be bumps in the road. You just have to take your team, which won't be the best talent, but will be a group that will work hard.*



SPORTS

# Young, talented Lady Tigers improve on Soccer field

The Belleville Lady Tiger soccer team may not be considered the team to beat in the Mega White league, but that doesn't mean they should be overlooked.

The squad has already matched the number of wins they gained last season (2) and have enough depth and young talent to open up some eyes in the Mega conference.

The team is young. The only senior on the team is Maria Mellin, a foreign exchange student from Finland.

The rest of the roster is made up of juniors, sophomores and a record number of freshman—six.

The lack of experience hasn't hindered the team thus far and, in fact, may be a blessing in disguise, according to Coach Ron Held.

"We lost some seniors but that made room for some young talent to move up," he said. "We actually had a feeder program that came through for us and produced some soccer talent. Its' a young team, but they have played together and it shows. The young players have good size and maturity to go along with it."

The Lady Tigers only loss in the first three games was a 2-0 affair at Redford Union in the season opener on Monday, April 3. However, the contest was sooner than Held thought. He made his final cuts for the team on the Friday before, allowing for minimal practice time for the Monday contest.

"We made our plan on the bus ride there," Held said. "So, we didn't really play together as a team. We only had four shots on goal. But that was to be expected, I guess."

With a week of practice before their next game at Romulus, the Tigers put things together and shut out the Eagles, 10-0. The mercy rule ended the game with about 18 minutes left.

The Tigers lost their scoring star Tiffany Chudzinski to graduation at the end of last season but her sister, Pamela Chudzinski, a junior forward, is stepping up in her place. She scored four of the team's 10 goals against Romulus and scored all three in Belleville's 3-1 victory against Dearborn Fordson on Wednesday, April 12—Belleville's last game before Spring Break.

Other juniors making the lineup are midfielder Nicole McKeever, goalie and midfielder Katie McGrogan, defender Kathryn Hotton and forward Channelle Bennett. Sophomore defenders Toni Zamorski and Erin Hill will round out the back field and sophomore Morgan Showler will help at mid and forward.

The six freshmen joining the ranks include Samantha Cagel, who should get the start between the posts this week or next, and Chelsea King will join the midfield.

The rest of the freshman squad is a sister act. Laura Showler, sister to sophomore defender, Morgan; Kristina McKeever, sister of junior midfielder, Nicole; and midfield sisters Lisa and Ashley Butzin will all be double trouble for opposing teams.

"Because of the feeder program the younger girls have just as much talent as their sisters," Held said. "They are all willing to learn their position and learn to play at three different positions and feel comfortable doing it."

Belleville finished sixth place (out of seven) in the Mega White last year with a 2-8-3 record. Already at 2-1 this year Held hopes to keep it going.

"We've already achieved what we did last year," he said. "The kids are excited about every game. I'm excited about the possibilities of this young team. They're practicing hard, learning, developing. It's exciting to watch them put it to use."

On Monday, the team travels to Edsel Ford for a 7 p.m. match with the Thunderbirds and host Monroe at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 18, 2006

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Clair, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: Clerk Payne. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Public Safety Director Champagne, Recreation and Facilities Director Ross, Water and Sewer Director Duha, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of eleven (11).

Supervisor King welcomed newly appointed Trustee Lianne Clair to the Board of Trustees and invited the audience to stay for cake and coffee in honor of Trustee Clair's appointment following the Board Meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Jahr moved, Budd seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Add New Business Item # 12 "To consider the appointment of Trustee Clair as the Board representative to the Open Space Committee and as an alternative representative for the Wayne County Community Development Advisory Council." Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

**MINUTES:** Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of April 3, 2006 as presented. Carried.

Budd moved, Jahr seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2006 as presented. Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Supervisor King read the State of the Township into the record and stated following the Board Meeting the "2005 State of the Township" video will be aired.

The American Cancer Society 3rd Annual Relay for Life in Van Buren Township and the Belleville Area will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 20th and will run until 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 21st. Township employees have once again entered the Ambassadors team. There is also the American Cancer Society's Wall of Hope Banner being displayed this week in township hall for people to sign. This banner along with approximately 4,500 other community banners will be displayed at Washington D.C. on September 19th and 20th at the "Celebration on the Hill" to demonstrate the unity of the entire country in support of cancer survivors, their families and continuing research efforts to find a cure for cancer.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the employment agreement between the Charter Township of Van Buren and Anthony Mulkey as Parks Manager and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Budd moved, Jahr seconded to approve the appointment of Mike Collins as the Visteon Corporation representative to fill the vacancy on the Local Development Finance Authority with term to expire August 12, 2007. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2006-13 revoking the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Olympic Laser Processing. Carried.

Clair moved, Jahr seconded to adopt Resolution 2006-14 Urging State to support Local Economic Development and Increase Statutory Revenue. Carried.

Jahr moved, Budd seconded to adopt Resolution 2006-15 the notice of intent to issue sanitary sewer system improvement bonds [for equalization basin project]. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2006-16 expressing intent for the Township to reimburse itself with proceeds of sanitary sewer system improvement bonds for costs of the improvements and related bond issuance costs [related to equalization basin project]. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve permit applications by SBC to construct underground telecommunication infrastructure in public right of ways in the Township permit numbers UT#5618396/M63107/05-1467 and

UT#5618440/M63107/06-306. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Clair seconded to receive and file the Executive Summary of the Van Buren Township North Huron Valley/Rouge Valley District 2005 Wet Weather Sanitary Flow Metering and Analysis Project, and to accept Wade-Trim's proposal dated March 22, 2006 to perform follow-up smoke testing of the sewer on Haggerty Road between Van Born and Ecorse Roads on a time and materials basis, using Rate Schedule 2006A, at a cost not to exceed \$6,000, and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the proposal. Carried.

Jahr moved, Rochowiak seconded to appoint Treasurer Budd as the Board representative to the Planning Commission. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the 2006 lawn maintenance contract with Salisbury Landscape Group [in an amount of \$69,885] for the 2006 season with the ability to execute for a second year if service is satisfactory in the first year and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the appointment of Trustee Clair as the Board representative to the Open Space Committee and as an alternative representative for the Wayne County Community Development Advisory Council. Carried.

**VOUCHER LIST:** Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the April 18, 2006 voucher list as presented. Carried.

**REPORTS:** Supervisor King ordered the March 2006 Public Safety Report received and filed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Treasurer Budd announced the Bonds were sold today to finance the construction of the Fire Station at Hull and Sumpter Roads and to purchase the 42 acres of land adjacent to the township hall property. Further, Supervisor King stated the Township has been assigned an "A" bond rating from Standard & Poor's with respect to the Township's Limited Tax General Obligation Capital Improvement bonds series 2006.

The Recreation Department announced the following events: Open registration has begun for summer day camp. Four camps will be held, Tot Camp for ages 4 – 6, Day Camp for ages 7 – 10, Tween Camp for ages 11 – 12 and Club Teen for ages 13 – 15. Also, the Van Buren Recreation Department and the Belleville Parks Commission proudly present a Detroit Tigers baseball trip on Friday, July 21st which will include a fireworks show after the game. The cost is \$15 per person, which covers transportation and admission. For further information please call 734.699.8921.

The Drive-In Dog Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Water and Sewer building located behind Township Hall. Dog licenses are available in the Treasurer's Office.

The next Board Meeting will be May 16th due to the annual school election on May 2nd.

Michigan's Lieutenant Governor Cherry will be the guest speaker at the Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club meeting to be held on Thursday, April 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Local 89 located on Textile Road.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Supervisor King reminded everyone attending the Board Meeting to stay for cake and coffee to celebrate Trustee Clair's appointment to the Board and encouraged all to sign the American Cancer Society's Wall of Hope Banner.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC  
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King  
Township Supervisor

Publish: April 27, 2006



## SPORTS

## Track star

FROM PAGE 9

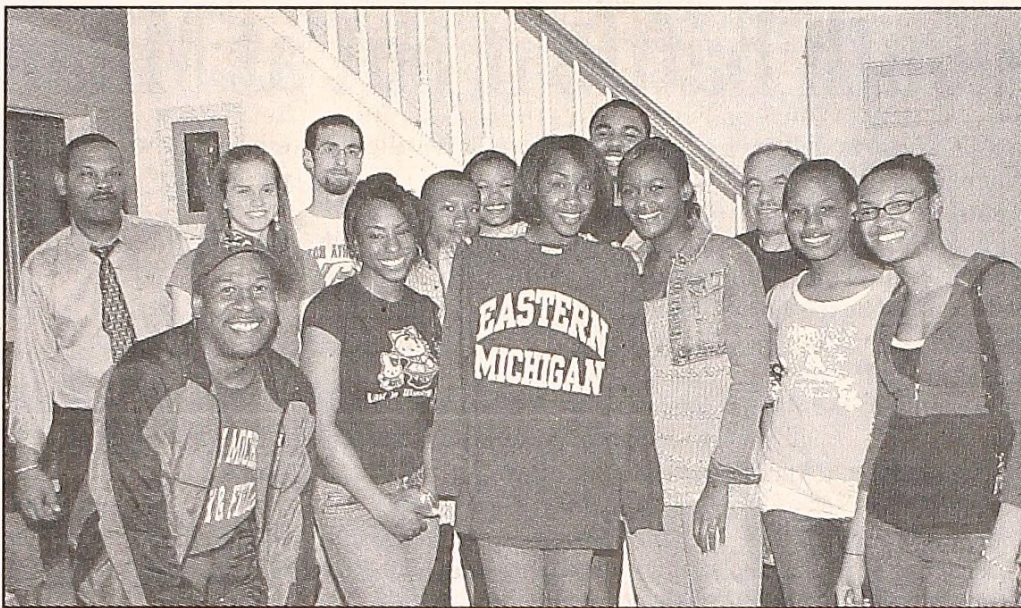
I'm level on all of them. They're all equal as far as talent and I like to do all of them. But I guess high jump comes a little easier to me than the other events.

She has enjoyed most of her success running in the summer and the winter indoor season with her club team, the Michigan Accelerators.

Brittany has run and medalled at United States Amateur Track and Field (USATF) championships at the regional, state and national level in her career with the Accelerators, according to Coach James Hall. She's traveled all over the country to compete with them, run on their indoor circuits and has been a part of their nationally listed relay teams. She's been all area, all conference and competed at last year's Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) state finals.

Hall expects Lockhart to qualify for at least four events at the state meet this year and expects her to be in the top three in at least three of those events.

"I don't know why she runs the events she does, she just loves to compete, loves to run...all of our good ones are like this," Hall said. "She's just an angel. Quiet, unassuming, humble. She never once, since I had her, complain about a practice. She has a unique balance of strength, speed and stamina. If we told her to run the mile in a meet she could finish in the top-five. Coach Marty Wagner says she could run the 800 meters in under 2:20.00 which would make her one of the best in the state. Five college coaches, upon seeing her, envisioned her as a heptathlete on the next level. This is what Jackie Joyner-Kersey was."



Family and friends of the Lockhart family celebrate Brittany's signing at her home in Canton.

Lockhart hopes what she has learned and worked for will pay off at Eastern.

"I think I'm a hard worker," she said. "I think I have a lot to bring to Eastern, hopefully some NCAA championships and more medals—more titles."

Otis Lockhart said the Accelerators are big reason for her success.

"Her being on the Accelerators is probably about the only thing that helped her," he said. "The coaches are excellent and they really helped with her development. They were the major player in her growth."

"There's no doubt in my mind that her aggressiveness toward the sport and willingness to learn, she'll be doing great things at the next level," he added. "She's at the beginning of her development right now—she doesn't know what her potential is. She has so much talent it's unbelievable."

He describes his daughter as being very kindhearted and easygoing off the

track but very different on it. He noticed her tremendous athletic potential and competitive streak when they would play basketball together.

"It's kind of like a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," he said. "If you talked with her on the street you wouldn't think that she was that competitive. Once she gets into that competitive mode she's a different person. She's a lot more tenacious than I used to be. She doesn't have any friends when it comes to competing."

Hall feels a lot of Lockhart's success as an athlete is due to her upbringing.

"The type of person she is, is reflective of her rearing," he said. "Her and her father have a special relationship. It's like fire and ice sometimes, but always a mutual admiration society. I see them all the time and she adores him and he adores her. They've been through a lot together is all I can say and he's her biggest fan."

Tragedy hit the Lockhart household when Lockhart's mother died when she was 11. Her two older sisters, Whitney and Tiffany, were already out of the nest and living their separate lives, leaving Lockhart and her father on their own. The two formed an unbreakable bond and an undying admiration for one another.

"I really appreciate him for all that he does for me," she said. "He's the one that is always running me to practice and back and forth to work and everything that he has going on. And, he's always at my track meets. He's my biggest fan and a big coach—always helping me."

"We are very close," Otis said. "When you only have each other you don't have anyone else."

Hall said Lockhart's choices were narrowed down between EMU and Western Michigan University.

"Coach Steve Lewis at EMU saw her run three times and asked me each time: 'Can I get her to come to EMU?'" Hall said. "He thinks she will be one of the best 400-meter hurdlers to come around in quite some time. I believe finally it was the current girls Crystal Dooley and Patrice Beasley at EMU; the tradition of MAC Championships at EMU; and the assurance Brittany would get continued development from Coach Lewis that closed the deal. Everybody loves Brit and is happy for her. She deserves it."

Eastern is only the first step of many for the young star that started running track on a whim.

"When I started in track it was completely for fun and I never thought it would lead to this," Lockhart said. "This gives me an opportunity to study for free, for one, and also encourages me to look forward to a professional level. I'm grateful for everything that I have and I look forward to my future at Eastern."

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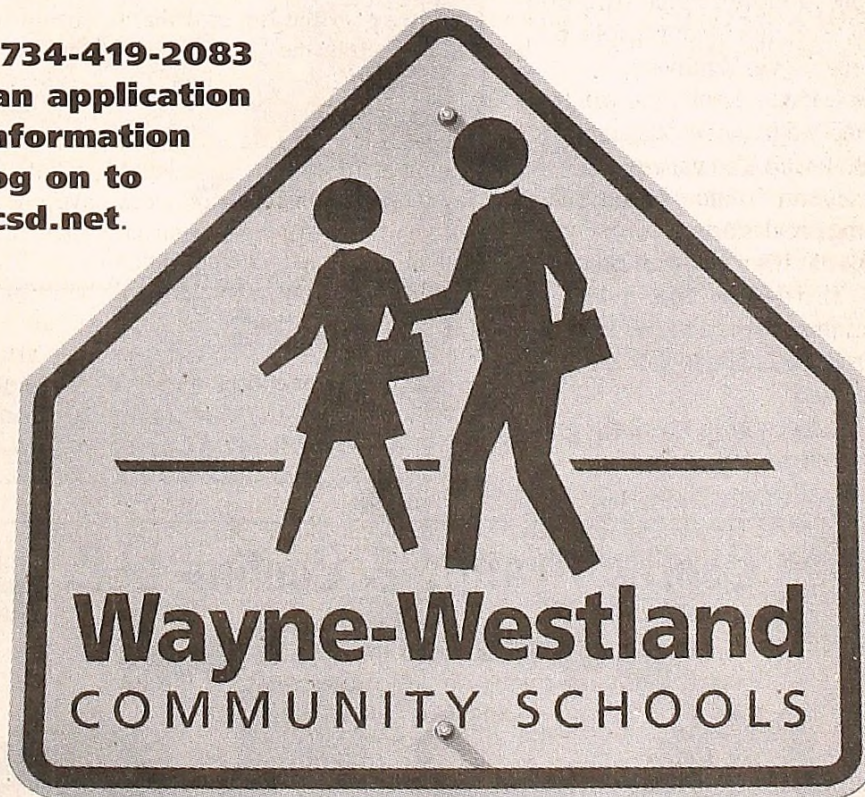
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# SPORTS

## Belleville, Plymouth battle it out at Milan Tournament

While most baseball teams were sitting idle during Spring Break, the Belleville Tigers and the Plymouth Wildcats met for the second time this season.

The Saturday contest at the Milan Tournament gave the Tigers a chance to redeem their opening-season doubleheader losses to the 'Cats. Belleville took full advantage of the occasion and pulled out a 9-5 seventh-inning victory.

The game was tied, 5-5, at the bottom of the seventh. Belleville's senior first baseman Jeff Price stepped up to the plate with bases loaded and hit a walk-off grand slam to put the game away, 9-5, for the Tigers.

Belleville led through the first four innings, knocking in two runs in the first and one in the second for a 3-0 advantage. Plymouth cut into the lead with a run scored in the fourth and tied it up in the fifth with two more runs. Belleville went back in front with a run in the sixth but the 'Cats rallied in two scores at the top of the seventh, taking a 5-4 lead. Belleville's Josh Lemens crossed the plate, making it 5-5, and setting up Price at the bottom of the frame.

### Belleville tops Willow Run in doubleheader

Belleville won both games of a doubleheader against Willow Run last Wednesday.

The Tigers had 24 hits and 24 runs on the day, winning the first game, 14-0, in four innings and the second, 10-4.

Putnam only allowed one hit in the first game for the win. Lemons hit a two-run homer in the first to get things rolling. The Tigers never looked back with hits from Sullens (triple, double), Price (two doubles), Brenden Madaj (triple, double) and Kevin Vandivier.

Sparkman earned the win from the mound in the second game.

Belleville also gained a 5-3 victory against Trenton the day before Spring Break started.

Madaj hit a two-run homer in the third for the triumph. Sparkman earned the W from the mound. Belleville is now 2-1 in the Mega Red.

For Belleville softball, go to [www.journalgroup.com](http://www.journalgroup.com).

Plymouth's Alex Harvey left the game in the seventh, which put Nate McManus on the mound.

"It was a tough loss," said Plymouth Coach Chuck Adams. "We had a chance to slam the door but just couldn't make the routine plays and get the ball over the plate in the seventh to put them away."

Belleville's Josh Sparkman earned the win from the mound.

"It was an exciting game," said Belleville Coach Chris Dessellier. "We thought we had them and then Plymouth scored two in the seventh to tie. The kids played well and didn't give up."

Both teams struggled against a tough Grandville team.

Plymouth 1, Grandville 12  
Grandville's Ryan Lind threw a one-hitter and the team went errorless to move past Plymouth, 12-1, in six innings.

The first two innings remained scoreless until the Bulldogs took advantage of Plymouth's seven errors. Grandville knocked in two in the third and two in the fourth for a 4-1 lead. The 'Dogs added three in the fifth and five in the sixth for the mercy.

Brandon Winowicki suffered the loss for Plymouth.

"I was not pleased with our defensive effort in this game but you have to take your hat off to Grandville," Adams said. "They were one of the best high school baseball teams I have seen in a long time. It was good experience to face a team of that caliber. It helps us see where we need to go as a team."

The Bulldogs were undefeated, 8-0, to that point in the tournament. Plymouth slid to 5-6.

Plymouth heads to Franklin at 4 p.m. on Friday and hosts Canton at 4 p.m. on Monday and Stevenson at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

### Belleville 1, Grandville 5

Grandville upped its record to 9-0 when they defeated the Tigers, 5-1, in the following round.

Belleville had the bases loaded in the sixth with score 5-1 in favor of the Bulldogs but a controversial call by the umpire left the game in favor of Grandville, according to Dessellier.

"We thought we had them in the sixth," he said, "but the umpire made a bad call. I tried arguing with him and tried to get thrown

out but he wouldn't do it. I was pretty upset about it. I said: if he was going to umpire our next game we weren't even going to show up for it."

Phillip Sullens, James O'Keefe, Price and Josh Lemons had hits in the game.

Kevin Putnam pitched a four-hitter with 10 strikeouts and eight walks.

It was thunder rather than the umpire that cancelled Belleville's consolation match up against Allen Park.

Belleville played a rivalry match against Southgate at home but the results were unavailable at press time. They host Allen Park at 4 p.m. on Monday and travel to

Garden City for a 4 p.m. match with the Cougars on Wednesday.

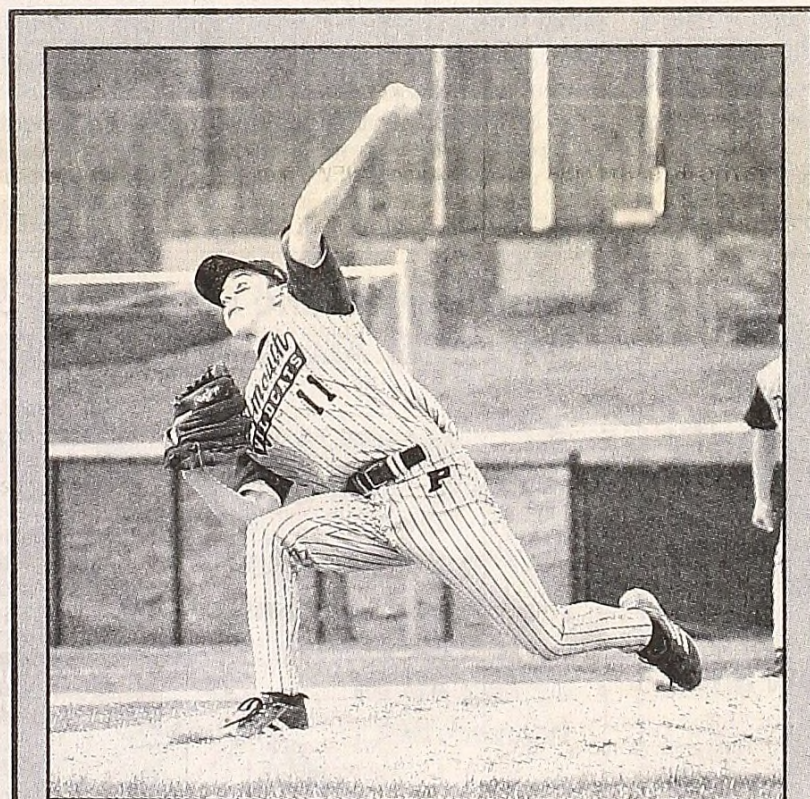
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### Cuthead

Brian Stotz pitched a two-hitter in the second game of a doubleheader against L'Anse Cruese last week, leading the Wildcats to a 13-3 victory. L'Anse Cruese won the first game, 5-1.

"Pic of the Week"

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01. Obituaries

02. In Memoriam

03. Cards of Thanks

04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots

05. Personals/Announcements

06. Legal Notices

07. Attorneys

08. Entertainment

09. Lost & Found

10. Coming Events

30. Help Wanted
31. Help Wanted Sales

32. Help Wanted Drivers

33. Child Care

34. Specialized Services

35. Situations Wanted

40. Business Opportunity

42. Health and Fitness

43. Money to Loan

44. Music/Art Lessons

45. Adult Care

46. Private Schools/Instruction

47. Riding/Horses/Stables
50. Pets & Supplies

54. Rummage Sales

55. Estate Sales

56. Flea Markets

57. Antiques

58. Garage and Yard Sales

59. Auctions

60. Misc. Sales

61. Misc. Items

62. Building Supplies

63. Business and Office Equipment
64. Lawn & Garden Supplies

65. Tree Service

66. Landscape / Nurseries

67. Garden Plant / Supplies

68. Garden / Produce

70. Masonry / Brickwork

72. Machinery Tools

73. Musical Merchandise

74. Sporting Goods

75. Boats / Accessories

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77. Recreation Vehicles
78. Hunting / Fishing

82. Wanted to Buy

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103. Business Property for Sale

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106. Houses for Sale

107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale

108. Lake and Resort

109. Income Property
110. Lots for Sale

111. Out of State Property

112. Commercial Lease

113. Real Estate Wanted

114. Auto Accessories

115. Autos for Sale

116. Antique & Classic Cars

117. Trucks & Vans for Sale

118. Freebies

119. Auto Repairs

120. Motorcycles

121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries

c Deacon Lue Walter (L.W.) Stephens May 25, 1919 April 19, 2006 Lue Walter (L.W.) Stephens, 86 of Westland passed away April 19. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Veola Mae Mary. He leaves behind 4 children: Walter Stephens (Corliss), Joyce Cassells of San Francisco, CA, Charles Stephens, (Sharon), Jean Murphy (Larry) of Evanston, IL. He has one remaining sister, Lily Cunningham of Cleveland, Ohio, a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren many nieces and nephews and a host of friends in church and community. Funeral Services were at Peoples Community Baptist Church with Rev. Roscoe Belton eulogizing and Evangelist Cross officiating. Internment was at Knollwood Cemetery in Canton. Arrangements were entrusted to Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home in Inkster

9. Lost & Found

Lost in downtown Plymouth Six month old, small, white, fluffy Bijon puppy. Answers to "Eddie". Has red collar w/tag and phone #. Please call 313-206-4891 daytime or evenings at 734-846-4807 REWARD

30. Help Wanted

Engineer: Yazaki North America, Inc. is looking for an individual to fill the following position at its Canton, MI location: DESIGN ENGINEER to develop and engineer connectors using CAD modeling SDRC IDEAS (2D & 3D) or equivalent. Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering, and course-work or experience in CAD modeling software, FEA software, APQP, DFMEA, DVP&R, SPC, and PPAP required. Please send resumes to K. Rupert, Yazaki North America, 6801 Haggerty Road-18E, Canton, MI 48187. INCLUDE CODE JVN.

Quality Control Engineer (QCE) Saturn Electronics Corp. (Romulus) in need of a (QCE) Bachl's in Production Engineering or relevant degree, 1 yr exp. as a QCE required. Please send resume to: HR: 28450 Northline Rd Romulus, MI 48174

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54. Rummage Sales

TAYLOR Rummage Sale St. Paul's Church 24158 Goddard Rd. (W. of Telegraph) May 4 (9-5pm) May 5 (9-4pm) May 6 (9-11am) Furniture, Tools, Household Items VERY GOOD Clothing & Misc. Items

58. Garage and Yard Sales

Multi-family garage sale. Furniture, collectables, books, records, small kitchen appliances, sports equipment, and much more! 9343 Caprice Dr. Plymouth April 29 & 30 9:00am - 5:00pm

59. Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION Sunday, May 7, 10:00AM Fort Knox Self Storage 39205 Ford Rd., Westland (734) 981-0700 www.fortknoxmi.com

In accordance with Michigan law, Fort Knox Self Storage will sell to the highest bidder, the entire contents of each of the following storage units. All units contain common household goods unless otherwise noted.

#535-B. Porter #381-M. Oakley #297-J. Merritt #538-R. Glasford #255-R. Peterson #188-A. Vanderzand #360-S. Zarzycki II #227-R. Gregg #069-A. Weeks

On May 6th, 2006, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:00am, at J&T Towing and Storage, 237 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1996 DODGE 4D 3P3ES47C0TT312995 1994 CHEVROLET 4D

2G1WL52M6S1113272 1995 FORD PU 1FTEF15Y9SNB75832 1993 DODGE 2D 1B3XW24K7PN55899 1993 FORD 4D 2FACP74W7PX114241 1992 CHRYSLER 4D 1C3XV66R9ND860511 1995 PONTIAC 4D 1G2NW55M7SC823012 1983 BUICK 2D 1G4AM4744DH966556 1984VOLKSWAGEN CV VVWCA0150EK003593

Upon completion, the auction will move to Great Lakes Towing and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1992 OLDSMOBILE 4D 1G3WH54TXND317062 2002 MERCURY 4D 4M2ZU86E92UJ15828 2002 MERCURY 4D 1MEFM55S42G627623 1999 CHEVROLET 4D 1GNDD13W4XK107220 1995 FORD 4D 1FALP52UXSG239478 1990 TOTOTA 2D JT2AT86F5L0006704 1995 DODGE PU 1B7HC16Y9SS117158 1998 FORD ST 2FMDA5149WBB24784 1993 FORD 4D 1FALP5242PG247002

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition". Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC Van Buren Township Clerk

NOTICE Notice is hereby given That on 05/25/06 at 1:00 pm The following will be sold By competitive bidding at The Storroom Self Storage 40600 Michigan Avenue, Canton, MI Space Number: 630 Patricia L. Hootman Misc. small appliances, Household furnishings, Toys, Hand Tools, misc. Boxes/bags, Recreation And Lawn care equipment

Space Number: 616 Ramon Ramos Misc. small appliances, Household furnishings, Misc. boxes/bags, hand

Tools, recreation equip., Office equip., other misc. Items.

Space Number: 736 Barbara Hughes Misc. small appliances, Household furnishings, Misc. boxes/bags, TV, Household goods, toys, Other misc. items

Space Number: 522 Jamine Wardlaw Household appliances, Household goods and Furnishings, TV, Small appliances, misc. Boxes/bags, recreation And exercise equipt., Other misc. items.

61. Misc. Items

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# Top marks

## Teacher of the Year award goes to local Romulus instructor

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Marilyn Wood walks into her kindergarten classroom at Wick Elementary knowing she can't afford to have a bad day.

"Every day, I try to send the kids home a little smarter than they were the day before," she said. "It's my goal every day to make sure the students are excited about learning so they want to come back and learn more."

Wood, 56, has put those ideals and the skills she's honed after 34 years of teaching to good use, and it's been noticed: she was named the Wayne County RESA (Regional Education Service Agency) "Teacher of the Year" for 2005. It's the second consecutive year that a Romulus teacher was given the award. Wood will collect her award at a RESA-sponsored dinner next month.

"I'm really honored," she said. "I feel like I've won the Oscar of education."

Kindergarten – both in terms of teacher and student expectations – has changed since Wood graduated from Eastern Michigan University with her bachelor's degree in education

degree in hand 34 years ago. Today, students are expected to read, write, and be able to recognize and understand sets of numbers. Wood – who began her career as a student teacher in Romulus prior to earning her degree – said she's been able to adapt with the changes.

Wood's viewpoint on education is based on a results-oriented approach that makes learning fun, and sets a foundation she hopes students will adhere to during their educational careers.

"We don't have time to do all of the art projects and things we did before, but it's OK," she said. "It's just really different – if kids miss out on what they learn here, it can be detrimental to them later on. Kindergarten is really like the end of the first grade."

Her approach is working, according to district numbers. About 75 to 100 percent of district students are meeting government standards for kindergarteners. Often times, Wood said she relies on philanthropic and social programs as well as academics.

Wood's programs include the Learning to Give effort, which is a district-wide program that helps students understand early

on how they can impact the lives of the less fortunate. Her students have planned fundraisers, to the best of their abilities, to help rebuild Maybury Farm in Northville after it was destroyed by fire three years ago. Another project was raising money for the University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital. Black History Month programs also figure prominently in Wood's lesson plans.

But academics are where Wood's performance stands out, according to Debbie Juriga, the principal at Wick.

"Marilyn consistently uses creative techniques that deliver a rich curriculum to each and every child," she said. "She accomplishes this through a variety of high interest strategies and settings that include direct instruction and small group and individual instruction sessions. Marilyn has developed 15 exciting learning centers where students enrich their learning in reading, writing, and mathematics."

Wood said that being a good teacher also means working outside of the classroom for the betterment of students.



Wick kindergarten teacher Marilyn Wood is surrounded by some of her students. She was named Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency Teacher of the Year at ceremonies earlier this month.

"Committee work keeps you in touch with parents and other teachers, which is a good thing because you can share information," she said. "It keeps you thinking about different ways you can teach the students."

The teacher's outside activities include: development of a new student packet to prepare parents for the first year of school, creating a more user-friendly report card for kindergarten students, organizing parent workshops, and developing summer educational programs.

Wood also serves as the Romulus representative on the Wayne Reading Council, is a representative on the district Parent-Teacher Organization, has served as the treasurer of the Romulus

Education Association, and is a member of the Wick Elementary School Improvement Team.

Schools Superintendent Joel Carr said he's impressed with the award.

"There are 33 school districts with many outstanding teachers in Wayne County, and the Romulus School District is again highly honored to have (Wood) selected as the teacher of the year," he said.

Wood said she hopes to continue her classroom activities for the foreseeable future.

"I don't have any plans to leave yet," she said.

"I still enjoy working with the kids. I still find the job a challenge, even after all of these years."

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